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the Christians used Syriac as their church language, and in this way many terms were introduced into the Arabic. Our author agrees with Wellhausen in thinking that the Christians, and especially the *Ibād*, contributed not a little to the formation of an Arabic literary language.

The fifth, sixth, and seventh sections are entitled, respectively: "The Rise of the Dynasty of Naṣr" (pp. 41-50); "The Lists of the 'Kings' of al-Ḥira" (pp. 50-60); "The History of the Laḥmid Dynasty" (pp. 60-125).

In the eighth section (pp. 125-38) there is a discussion of such general questions as the relation of al-Ḥira to the Persians and Arabs, the organization of the state, etc. Section nine (pp. 138-43) treats of the position of the Laḥmids in the matter of religion.

There are two indexes, one of the persons and subjects mentioned, and the other of the poets cited.

In his preface Dr. Rothstein acknowledges his great indebtedness to Nöldeke, but throughout his book he gives evidence of much independent study. In view of the character of the sources of this period, it is only natural that some scholars might differ with Dr. Rothstein in some matters of detail. But we feel that he has produced a good piece of work, and we shall be glad to welcome further results of his investigation.

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NÖLDEKE'S SYRIAC GRAMMAR.¹

When a master in Aramaic like Professor Nöldeke gives us a Syriac grammar, we can but receive it with gratitude. When that grammar is the second edition of one that for nearly twenty years has been the comrade and guide of all students of Syriac, but little more remains to be said. Praise is superfluous; criticism is little in place. The book in its former edition approved itself as the clearest and most accurate introduction to the language with which it deals, and also as the most thorough investigation of the laws on which that language moves.

The following are the principal additions and changes which the grammar shows in its new form. Instead of the ugly and angular Maronite type which has disgraced our Syriac printing for so long, the rounded and graceful Drugulin font is used; this means more space, but that does not matter. Further, to the table of the alphabet on p. 2 the Nestorian is added, a welcome addition for students who are puzzling their way through the cramped text of the Bible Society. In Euting's table of Aramaic scripts we find four new columns: of the Senjirli inscriptions, and that of Taymā, of Nabatean, and of Palmyrene; Palmyrene, especially, is of the highest interest as a joining place of square Hebrew and Estrangelo Syriac. On p. 4 the pronunciation of the palatal ܥ is more exactly indicated. In the preface is noticed how the synoptic gospels read more idiomatically and flowingly in Syriac than

¹ KURZGEFASSTE SYRISCHE GRAMMATIK. Von Theodor Nöldeke. Zweite verbesserte Auflage. Mit einer Schrifttafel von Julius Euting. Leipzig: Chr. Herm. Tauchnitz, 1898. xxxiv + 306 pp.; 8vo. M. 12.

in the Greek, which we reckon their original form; a fact especially true of the Curetonian and of the Sinaitic versions. In consequence they have been quoted more frequently than in the first edition, and there are many references to Sinaitic peculiarities in orthography and accident. We have here only another indication that the future exegesis of the synoptics must be in Aramaic and not in Greek. Professor Nöldeke appears to have abandoned the view that ܐܢ as 3d masc. sing. suffix to certain verbal forms is a purely orthographic addition. The part of § 50 on p. 36 suggesting that is removed. We should have been glad of some further light on this change. On p. 39 there is an important addition. The information desired in the first edition as to the fall of the principal accent according to the tradition of the Syrian church is supplied through Guidi and Cardahi. Of absolutely new sections there are only six, but many have received considerable change and addition. A good example is the latter part of § 247, dealing with the use of ܐܢܐ with the passive. In that section, in the former edition of the grammar, this construction had been viewed as stating the agent of the action involved in the passive verb. But such a view—that the agent could be given with a passive—was in the teeth of all Semitic analogy. You cannot say *ḏurība Zaydun* by 'Amr; if you want to bring 'Amr in, the verb must be active. So, in this second edition, such constructions are differently rendered and, without doubt, with right. Thus ܐܢܐ ܕܝܡܝܢܐ ܕܝܡܝܢܐ was rendered "wurden von ihm unterwiesen," but is now rendered "wurden seine Schüler," i. e., "became students of his" or "to him." Again, ܐܢܐ ܕܝܡܝܢܐ ܕܝܡܝܢܐ was rendered "wurden von seinen Aposteln gefangen," but now "wurden seinen Aposteln als Fang zu Theil."

In view of this return to methods of Arabic grammar, it is somewhat singular that the old distinction between the nominal and the verbal sentence is retained. On p. 235 we still read that a nominal sentence is one which has a substantive, an adjective, or an adverbial clause as predicate. The present reviewer may be a dweller in the innermost caves of ignorance, but he cannot see any advantage, pedagogic or scientific, in such a statement. Further, it does not bring out the essential point of the Semitic nominal sentence, that the subject, the noun, is the chief thing and the first thing thought of. In Arabic it does not matter what we say about Zayd or how we say it; whether it is that he is going away, or that his father is sick, or that he has struck 'Amr. If we put Zayd first, we mean him first; and we have a nominal sentence, whatever the nature of its predicate may be. Our devotion to the formulæ of the Arabic grammarians may sometimes be unwise, but here we are following a sound logical distinction. Further, this is the only analysis that gives us at a stroke the whole theory and practice of the circumstantial clause; it is simply a nominal sentence, and that finishes the matter. It is true that in a Syriac sentence order plays little part; but it plays at least so much as this.

Going back to the earlier sections, it would have been of the highest interest if Professor Nöldeke had put before us his views of the origin or

origins of the nominal forms. That part of the book is practically in its 1880 condition; it belongs to the period before Barth and Lagarde. Another regret which I cannot suppress is that the Nestorian vocalization of the verbs should not have been more fully indicated. The difference between ܐ and ܐ̇ is regularly marked, but that between ܐ and ܐ̇ hardly at all. A few forms would have sufficed to give the learner a working basis of distinction; for example, ܐܝܬܐ, ܐܝܬܐ̇, ܐܝܬܐ̇, ܐܝܬܐ̇, etc. Without doubt there is much in the East Syrian vocalization that is artificial and which smacks of the school, but have we not here at least a sound tradition?

I have noticed a few misprints, but only a few. Thus on p. 86 D. we must read "der 2. und 3. pl. und der 1. sg.;" on p. 117, l. 1, read "Der 3. pl. f.;" and p. 124 B., end of first paragraph, read "Pael" for "Peal." On p. 16 D. there might with advantage have been a reference to § 94 C. D. There is no index, but an excellent fourteen-page table of contents fairly takes its place.

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